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October 31, 1997

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Pacific & Southern Company, Inc.  
Station WXIA-TV, Atlanta, GA  
PROGRESS REPORT ON DTV IMPLEMENTATION

Dear Mr. Caton:

Pacific and Southern Company, Inc. ("P&S"), a subsidiary of Gannett Co., Inc., is the licensee of television station WXIA-TV, Atlanta, Georgia. On behalf of P&S, Gannett has committed to constructing DTV facilities at station WXIA-TV by November 1, 1998. The Commission has requested that stations which adopted this 18-month build-out schedule report every six months on the progress of their construction. *Fifth Report and Order* in MM Docket No. 87-268, FCC 97-116 (April 22, 1997), 62 F.R. 26996 (May 16, 1997). This is the first such report for P&S.

P&S's plans to meet the November 1, 1998 deadline at station WXIA-TV are on schedule. The licensee's goal at the present time is to complete DTV construction and be operational by mid-summer 1998, assuming no force majeure events occur.

To that end, the following specific steps have been taken or are in progress:

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## 1. Capital Funding

P&S has committed the necessary capital funds for down payments on a DTV transmitter, antenna and required tower modifications. Those payments have been made.

## 2. Equipment Purchases

A Model PTCD20P2 Solid State 20 kW DTV transmitter has been purchased from Harris Corporation. Delivery is expected in June 1998.

A TW-710-R (S) horizontally polarized traveling wave antenna has been purchased from Dielectric Communications Corporation. Delivery is expected in May 1998.

A 400 foot 3-1/8" 503 transmission line has been purchased. This will be used to extend the existing 600 feet of transmission line that now feeds the WXIA-TV auxiliary antenna and will be used for the DTV antenna.

## 3. Tower Analysis

Anderson-Foreman Engineers, a structural engineering firm, was retained to complete an analysis of the WXIA-TV tower, in coordination with the antenna manufacturer. That study has been completed and confirms that the tower will hold the additional weight and windload of the DTV antenna and is suitable as a combined site for both DTV and NTSC facilities.

In this regard, however, all antennas and equipment not related to WXIA-TV operations must be removed from the tower to accommodate the added DTV antenna and transmission line. Current tenants have been notified by registered letter of the need to vacate the site.

## 4. FAA Clearance

P&S's intention is to mount the new WXIA-TV DTV antenna in place of the NTSC antenna and a supporting pole. The NTSC antenna will be removed and re-mounted atop the DTV antenna, increasing the overall height of the structure by 10 feet, from

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1041' to 1051' AGL (2048' to 2058' AMSL). Airspace Consultant John P. Allen has been hired to assist in obtaining FAA approval of the additional height. An FAA clearance report (Form 7460) has been filed with the FAA.

## 5. FCC Application

P&S intends to file FCC Form 301 for a DTV construction permit immediately upon receipt of FAA clearance for the tower height increase. It anticipates being able to certify compliance with the checklist of DTV requirements contained in Form 301, making the application eligible for streamlined processing and grant "within a matter of days" of filing. *Fifth Report and Order* at ¶ 72.

P&S's construction schedule, assuming timely grant of a CP and no unforeseen delaying events or circumstances, calls for installation of the WXIA-TV DTV antenna and transmitter in June 1998.

Should any further information be needed or if questions arise in connection with this report, please contact this office directly or P&S's project director for DTV implementation, Mr. Jeff Andrew, at (703) 284-3174.

Sincerely,

REED SMITH SHAW & McCLAY LLP

  
Marnie K. Sarver

Enclosures

cc: Mr. David Bennett (FCC/TV Branch, Room 700)  
Mr. Cecil L. Walker  
Kristin H. Kent, Esq.  
Mr. Jeff Andrew  
Mr. Robert Walker  
Mr. Jerry Michel